

CASTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT INTO COMPANY
CULTURE

ABOUT TWIN CITY DIE CASTINGS COMPANY. Twin City Die Castings Company (TCDC) is one of North America's oldest die casting companies. Charlie Adams, a pioneer in the die casting industry, founded TCDC in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919. The company grew as an industry leader in the 1980s and '90s, adding two new facilities to handle the growth: one in Watertown, South Dakota, and the other in Monticello, Minnesota. With around 130 employees, the Watertown facility supplies custom aluminum die casting solutions to the automotive, commercial vehicle, and HVAC industries. An ISO TS-16949:2009-certified company, TCDC has automated machining lines with robots and in-cell pressure testing, adding additional value to the castings produced in Watertown.

THE CHALLENGE. TCDC Watertown was looking to improve its overall performance with regard to productivity, profitability, on-time delivery and cost of quality. Company leaders knew the importance of engaging with Lean Manufacturing to achieve their goals, and reached out to South Dakota Manufacturing and Technology Solutions (MTS), a NIST MEP affiliate, for assistance.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. MTS worked with TCDC to conduct a door-to-door Value Stream Mapping (VSM) event, identifying areas to target within the Watertown plant. The company made a commitment to train all employees in Lean 101 via MTS, and TCDC employees gained an understanding of Lean concepts and the importance of implementing continuous improvement. In addition, MTS conducted a Lean Bronze Certification training for early adopters within the organization, and provided ongoing support and coaching to help influence change in the Watertown facility.

The training created a foundation for employees to learn Lean concepts and practice them in their respective areas. MTS provided further instruction on Single-Minute Exchange of Dies (SMED) for the cast and CNC departments, Visual Management, 5S workplace organization (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain), Quick and Easy Kaizen, Waste Elimination. By implementing Lean, TCDC increased productivity and profits and gained strategies to support the company's continued success.

"Since engaging with MTS, TCDC has added capacity through better flow, organization, and set-up reduction. We reduced our cost of quality while increasing productivity and profits. Employees are more engaged and we are transforming the culture. We still have a ways to go but we are heading in the right direction. MTS taught us tools critical to our future success."

-Ron Barse, General Manager

RESULTS



Increased annual sales by over **\$90,000**



Retained sales upwards of **7** figures

CONTACT US



2329 N. Career Avenue
Suite 106
Sioux Falls, SD 57107



(605)367-5757



www.sdmanufacturing.com

